

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for securely transmitting data between a computer and a printer, comprising:

converting a file for printing to a printer description language format;

encrypting said file in said printer description language format;

providing said file with an identifier for the printer; and

transmitting said file to the printer.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising decrypting said file by the printer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said converting comprises converting said file to at least one of a postscript format, a .pcl format, a .pdf format, and an .xml format.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving said file by the printer, the printer recognizing said identifier, validating said identifier, and selecting an appropriate decryption algorithm.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said providing includes providing said file with a flag recognizable solely by the printer for indicating an encryption algorithm for use in said encrypting.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said providing comprises providing said file with a flag stored in a memory of the computer.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising at least one of recognizing said flag, validating said flag, and selecting an appropriate decryption algorithm.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said validating includes entering a decryption key into the printer.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said entering comprises entering a decryption key corresponding to said flag.

10. The method of claim 2, wherein said decrypting comprises selecting an appropriate decryption algorithm from a plurality of decryption algorithms available to the printer based upon at least one of an identifier for the computer and a flag provided with said file.

11. A method for securely transmitting data between a first device and a second device in a computer network, comprising:

encrypting a file for transmitting by the first device;

providing an identifier for said file; and

transmitting said file from the first device to the second device.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

decrypting said file by the second device.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

employing one of a plurality of encryption programs available to the first device;

providing said file with an identifier for the first device; and

performing at least one of recognizing said identifier for the first device, validating said identifier for the first device, and selecting an appropriate decryption algorithm from a plurality of decryption algorithms.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said providing said identifier for said file includes providing a flag for said file, said flag recognizable only by the second device and indicating an encryption algorithm.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said providing said flag comprises providing a flag for said file stored in memory of the first device.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising performing at least one of recognizing said flag, validating said flag using a decryption key corresponding to said flag of the second device, and selecting an appropriate decryption algorithm from said plurality of decryption algorithms.

17. A system for securely transmitting a file in a computer network, comprising:  
a first device including at least one processor for providing an encrypted file with an identifier for transmitting on said computer network; and  
a second device including at least one processor for decrypting and outputting the file.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said at least one processor of said first device includes at least one encryption algorithm.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said at least one processor of said first device further includes a source for identifiers and flags recognizable solely by said second device for providing the file with at least one of an identifier and a flag for indicating an encryption algorithm for encrypting the file.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said second device further includes an input element for entry of a decryption key separately from receipt of the file, said decryption key for recognition by said at least one processor of said second device and for corresponding to at least one decryption algorithm available to said at least one processor of said second device and a flag accompanying the file.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein said first device comprises a computer and said second device comprises a printer, said first device having apparatus for converting the file to an output format including a printer description language.

22. The system of claim 17, wherein said first device includes at least one encryption algorithm for corresponding to a decryption algorithm available to said second device remotely in time from transmission of the file across the computer network.

23. A printer, comprising:

at least one processor for receiving an encrypted file for printing from a computer and for receiving at least an identifier for said printer accompanying said encrypted file, said at least one processor for executing a decryption algorithm to decrypt said encrypted file after receipt of said identifier; and

at least one printing element for printing at least files decrypted by said at least one processor.

24. The printer of claim 23, further comprising a memory connected to said at least one processor for storage of said decryption algorithm.

25. The printer of claim 23, further comprising:

at least one decryption algorithm associated with said at least one processor.

26. The printer of claim 23, wherein said at least one processor recognizes at least one of an identifier associated with a particular source and a flag recognizable only by the printer and indicative of an encryption algorithm for encrypting said encrypted file.

27. The printer of claim 26, wherein said at least one processor selects a decryption algorithm for decrypting said encrypted file upon recognizing said at least one of said identifier and said flag.

28. The printer of claim 26, further comprising an input element configured for receiving a decryption key, said decryption key corresponding to said flag for facilitating recognition thereof.

29. The printer of claim 28, wherein said decryption key facilitates activation of a decryption algorithm.